

Unitary Councillor Report

Report from Cllr David Hopkins, Cllr Victoria Hopkins & Cllr Alice Jenkins – Representing Wavendon at MK Council

April 2017



Highways team – Now that David Hall has left MKC Naveed Ahmed is covering the community issues and Sean Rooney will look after the Road safety team

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Sean.rooney@milton-keynes.gov.uk



Eastern Expansion Area Working Group

Fen Street Opening – next stage, October half term week (2017) Fully open from A421 to J14 in June 2019

A5130 declassification – This is the route from Hockliffe (Central Beds Council) to Kingston Roundabout and then through Broughton - Late May 2017. HGV ban by November 2017



Wavendon Properties Appeal – Officer Report

Apologies for the time this has taken but I can finally offer a little more information in this regard. I have attached a general timetable of events in the lead up to the Inquiry. In terms of the Inquiry date we have tentatively suggested a date of 11th July although this has not been confirmed by the Inspectorate. It usually takes a couple of weeks for them to confirm dates and the suggested date was only sent at the end of last week.

The Appellant has requested a five day Inquiry which seems excessive to me but we

will have to prepare accordingly.

In terms of venue I am hoping to secure the Church of Christ the Cornerstone in CMK but I cannot progress booking until the date has been confirmed. I'll keep you updated as and when I receive further information. It may be worth me updating the Forum on Thursday if that would help?

Allen Saçbükler - Senior Planning Officer - 01908 253101

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17/00099/FUL - Travelling Showpeople site

Further developments on this one from the planning officer.

*On review of the Council's scheme of delegation it is evident that a delegated decision would be lawful. I have therefore completed a report on that basis and a decision will be issued tomorrow. **The application will be refused** with four reasons for refusal based on:*

1. *No identified or justified need*
2. *Lack of highways visibility splays/highways safety*
3. *Lack of information with regard to ecological matters*
4. *Lack of information with regard to foul water disposal*

Allen Saçbükler - Senior Planning Officer

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Planning Enforcement Team Structure -

Gavin Treen – Interim Enforcement Team Manager (Gavin.Treen@milton-keynes.gov.uk) (01908 252580)



Kents Hill School Update

Kents Hill schools are progressing on time. The DFE are advising MKC on how they want us to go about identifying the 'operators' of the primary and secondary provision. I hope we can clarify the process in the next 1-2 weeks.

Contact: Michael Bracey - Corporate Director – People (Milton Keynes Council)

Plan:MK Plan MK Drop In Sessions

Draft Plan Consultation (March 2017)

Plan:MK (Draft Plan:MK Consultation document (PDF, 9.2MB)) is the development strategy for Milton Keynes outlining how the Borough will grow over the next few years. It is the Council's new Local Plan for the homes, jobs and infrastructure that will be needed in the Borough for the period until 2031.

Milton Keynes' population is expected to increase to over 300,000 by 2031 so we need to start managing this growth now.

Created and written using the ideas, comments and feedback from residents and key groups in MK, and independent evidence assessments, the plan covers how and where future development sites will be.

26,500 new homes will be provided over the next 15 years – most already have planning permission with further homes earmarked for development on brownfield sites and sustainable urban extensions to the east and south of MK.

This forward planning is vital to ensure that we get the right balance of housing and industrial development and our local economy continues to thrive; but we also need to maintain what makes MK special - our large amount of green open space, unique grid road and redway networks and the right infrastructure like schools and health provision.

Some Key Features of Plan:MK

- Build 7,600 new homes across MK: 1,000 new homes in the rural villages in line with neighbourhood plans; a 1,000-home urban extension to the south east; around 5,000 homes within the city; and 600 homes at Eaton Leys.

- Allocate land for employment south of Caldecotte and job creation through development and growth and opportunities through the East-West Growth Corridor.

Resident Drop in Sessions - Set for **1 June at Summerlin Centre** on Parklands in Woburn Sands (6-9pm) and for a date to be set at the Pavilion in Bow Brickhill during the week commencing 29 May 2017

The Council needs to obtain residents views on the proposals.

From Friday 17th March – 9th June 2017



Key decisions – A University for MK

- Appoint HE lead (competitive process)
 - VC and leadership team
 - COO
 - Project team (see below)
 - Funding
 - Architect
 - D&B Contractor
 - Education design and QA
 - Services
 - Systems
 - Staffing
 - Academic and professional staff
-

Contact: Fiona Robinson - fiona.robinson@milton-keynes.gov.uk



PRESS RELEASE

Council Forced to Think Again on Green Bin Charges

Labour-run Milton Keynes Council was forced to think again on their plans to put

charges on green bins and cut pink bag provisions.

Opposition Conservative Councillors together with Kents Hill and Monkston Parish Council had called in the Council's 'Waste Strategy' on the grounds that it hadn't been consulted on with the public, proper scrutiny process had not been followed and that the expected savings of just over £300,000 were wildly overestimated.

The committee considering the call-in met on Wednesday evening (29th March) with the public gallery packed as resident after resident spoke out against the proposed changes.

After hearing the overwhelming opposition the committee sent the 'Waste Strategy' to full Council for further consideration in June before a further decision can be made. The Labour Cabinet were also urged to conduct a widespread consultation to get the real views of residents as soon as possible.

One of the Councillors who called-in the decision, Cllr Edith Bald, welcomed the decision. She said:

"This was a real success for residents across Milton Keynes and frankly for common sense. There are so many unanswered questions leaving us all with a complete lack of confidence in this strategy.

"I don't understand why the Labour Council would want to punish the poorest and most vulnerable, reduce recycling rates and run the risk of an increase in fly tipping for a plan that doesn't need to exist and will only save, if anything, a very small percentage of the Council's overall budget.

"I hope the Cabinet will think again and I look forward to continuing to fight the strategy at full Council in June."

The meeting also raised tensions in the Labour - Liberal Democrat partnership currently running at Milton Keynes Council with one Lib Dem Councillor saying "If Labour think we will just roll over to anything they have a lot of learning to do."



300 Service

Just to confirm the change to service 300 from June. In summary to an hourly service will operate throughout including evenings and Sundays

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Over the weekend (Saturday 25 March), the Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils (MKALC) delivered a conference to over 100 of its members / delegates, which was supported by MKC, to explore options and establish the appetite for delivering and working differently. There was much debate and interaction, and the outcomes of the conference will be considered by the Parishes Advisory Group over the coming months – this is in order to develop an approach that recognises that all of our local councils are in a different place in terms of size, appetite, capacity, capability and staffing. A briefing paper is reproduced below provides further detail.

Introduction

There are some 400 principal councils and some 9000 local (parish and town) councils in England. Milton Keynes (as the principal council) is ‘fully parished’ and has 48 parish and town councils. These councils range in size, with the largest having responsibility for some 10,250 properties / households and the smallest having responsibility for less than 15 properties/households. They range in precepts that they levy, with the largest precept for a local council being around £870,000 and the smallest precept being £511 (or nothing at all) - (2017/18 figures). These councils also range in their

- working ways and leadership
- culture
- ideas
- behaviours
- financial ability
- appetite and ambition
- capacity and staffing

- capability and technical knowledge

Some of our local councils, simply consist of 'parish meetings only' with a part time clerk that works just a few hours per week, whilst our larger councils run and deliver a number of services with a full time clerk and around 20 staff . A list of some of the services that parish councils provide is attached at Annexe A

Local councils are ideally placed to respond to local trends and needs – one of their many strengths. Some of our local councils have a long history of taking initiatives and doing their own thing independently of MKC in order to serve the needs of their communities in the best way possible

With an increase in the demand for local services and a reduction in public spending / funding from central government, principal councils are looking more and more at how they can work differently with local councils to deliver important services at a lower cost, whilst maintaining service levels and often improving local service delivery. The Council has deemed that a piece of work is necessary, to explore such benefits and therefore has resourced it (in the form of a programme / project manager)

Context

Financial - Milton Keynes Council is facing the most difficult budget period it have ever had to deal with. Government cuts and a rise in demand for some of our services means it faces difficult times and some tough choices. The council spends about two thirds of its overall budget on adult and children's care, and costs have grown by £18m. So far it has been managing this through:

- reducing costs
- employing fewer people
- putting more services online
- sharing some of its services with other Councils.

It has also had to make cuts that its residents will have started to 'feel' – for example taking a bit longer in between the times we sweep the streets or doing less cutting back of bushes and fixing fewer street signs. In addition it has started to charge for a few things that we used to offer for free or charge more for others. Milton Keynes is no different to many other councils. A significant majority are having to make such 'adjustments'. To date, the Council has cut £111m from its budget, but it needs to find another £22m next year, and £60m by 2020. It's a huge financial challenge and there are no easy choices left to make. More cuts plus increased demand means some council services will have to reduce significantly or stop altogether. The council is left with no choice but to ask our local councils and partners to take on more responsibility for some services too. It is having to rethink everything it does and how it does it.

In the context of some of the national drivers that are shaping the way we work with parish and town councils, there are a number of areas that will be taken into consideration:

Localism - The localism landscape was developed with the help of a key piece of legislation – the Localism Act 2011, which gave councils and communities new powers and rights to continue to make a difference locally. Part of these new powers gave councils at different levels more freedom to work together, be that to drive down costs or simply to work more effectively.

The Open Public Service White Paper, published in July 2011, further articulated the Governments desire to do much more to reinvigorate the most local forms of government – ie parish and town (local) councils and allow them to take control of key local services.

Even more encouragement was given by the Government, for local control over delivery of services with the Community Budgets pilot programme.

What are we trying to achieve

Quite simply,

- An understanding of each of our [very different] local councils desires, aspirations and ideas to work in partnership with us, which will enable us to work with them to reduce our costs and continue to provide (as appropriate) services and service levels that do not have a significant detrimental impact to our customers and communities.
- An ongoing productive, collaborative and co-operative working relationship and arrangements, built on foundations of honesty, transparency and communication.
- An understanding by all parties involved of the alternative arrangements for devolving services and the benefits and risks associated with them, for example, 'clustering', 'service delegation', 'joint service provision', 'charter approaches', as well as freehold Community Asset Transfers, which the council already has a programme of undertaking.
- An understanding by all parties about opportunities to 'pick and mix' these options and solutions, to ensure that local services are delivered to local people in the best possible way to achieve the best possible outcomes.

And ultimately,

- Ensuring the that whatever is done, it is done with the interest of our communities at the heart of the matter

Scope

The scope of the piece of work is to:

- initially understand the appetite, ambition and capacity of local councils to consider alternative ways of working in order to ensure services are at an acceptable level to our customers and communities and that the objectives they are trying to achieve locally are understood.
- understand the detail, costs and clauses of the contracts that Milton Keynes council has with its contractors and other partners, which are delivered across MK localities, to ensure there is a transparent view of potential impacts of any changes to them, both financially and in terms of management.
- understand and link in with the work already undertaken by the freehold Community Asset Transfer Programme and to learn lessons from the associated complexities and situations that came / come from that programme so as to be armed with (where possible) approaches and arrangements that are beneficial in the short, medium and long term.
- understand the links and interrelationships that currently exist with the various local councils and Milton Keynes Council and the services that they provide with a view to exploring how the Council can better help and facilitate

Guiding principles

That Milton Keynes Council, alongside their local council partners, explore jointly the opportunities of working and delivering 'differently' in order to seek reductions in costs.

That exploration is transparent, and done with in a collaborative and positive way, in recognition of the fact that we are where we are in terms of our financial position, and that we need to secure future cost reductions jointly.

That exploration and subsequent recommendations are with the understanding of all parties' situations, and that there is mutual respect and understanding of all partners positions

Plans and Methodology

The programme will follow the MK Approach to Projects. Sarah Gonsalves is Project/ Programme Sponsor. Kay Pettit is the Project/Programme Manager.. Once the initial scoping phase is complete, a reference group / stakeholder group will be formed to ensure relevant areas of the council, their partners and stakeholders are instrumental in developing solutions jointly to in the best interests of the communities they serve. There will be a Project Board and an associated Risk Register.

Time Lines and Next Steps

February 2017 to August 2017 - to undertake and complete the engagement element of the programme by August with recommendations for a way forward in the short, medium and longer term. A conference, organised by the Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils (MKALC) and supported by MKC will take place in March 2017, will be an opportunity to understand some of the shorter and longer term opportunities that will take us into the future of 'Delivering Locally'

September 2017 to March 2018 - to facilitate and implement Phase 1 (short term) recommendations in order to achieve the desired level of savings (as identified) and / or to provide more efficient services / facilitation of services that enables local councils to deliver even more effectively than they are currently able to. This period will endeavour to incorporate the budget setting requirements of local councils who need to understand MKC's thoughts and positions for the following year to enable local councils to respond accordingly. Local councils need ideally understand MKC's thoughts and early proposals by around September each year in order to be able to respond effectively in the following financial year

April 2018 – review of Phase 1 with options papers (potentially to move on to Phase 2) and review lessons learnt. March 2016

Activities for older people
Allotments
Burial grounds, cemeteries,
churchyards and crematoria
Bus shelters
Community safety
Clocks
Public buildings
Drainage of ditches and ponds
Economic growth and business support
Education
Entertainment and arts support
Footpath and bridle path
provision and maintenance
Grant funding local community activity
Health and wellbeing
Housing
Highways
Land acquisition and sale
Litter bins
Postal and telecommunication facilities
Public toilets
Recreation
Public seating
Signs
Social care
Tourism support
Traffic calming measures
War memorial maintenance
Water supply
Youth services and activities



A NEW POLICE INSPECTOR FOR SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOODS

The South Neighbourhoods Team Michael Morland



Inspector - Neighbourhood Policing

Bletchley Police Station, Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, MK3 6TP

Tel: 07815555719 - michael.morland@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

I am pleased to inform you that I have very recently taken on the role of Inspector for the Milton Keynes Local Policing Area, covering the South Sector Neighbourhoods.

I am privileged and pleased to have been given the opportunity to serve as your Inspector, having worked as a neighbourhood Constable, Sergeant and Acting Inspector, I am fully aware that partnership working sits at the very heart of what makes our community feel safe.

With this in mind I would like to invite each and every one of you to visit and meet with me here at Bletchley Police Station for an informal opportunity to meet. If you are interested in dropping in, I have made the following dates available.

- Friday 21st April
- Thursday 27th April,
- Tuesday 2nd May,
- Wednesday 3rd May

Please if you are interested email PC Katie Smith or PC David Smith Katharine.Smith@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or david.smith3@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk who will facilitate booking a 20 minute appointment. I will provide tea coffee and biscuits!

In the meantime, please take the time to follow us on the below social media platforms, it's a great way to keep up to date on what we as a team are doing.

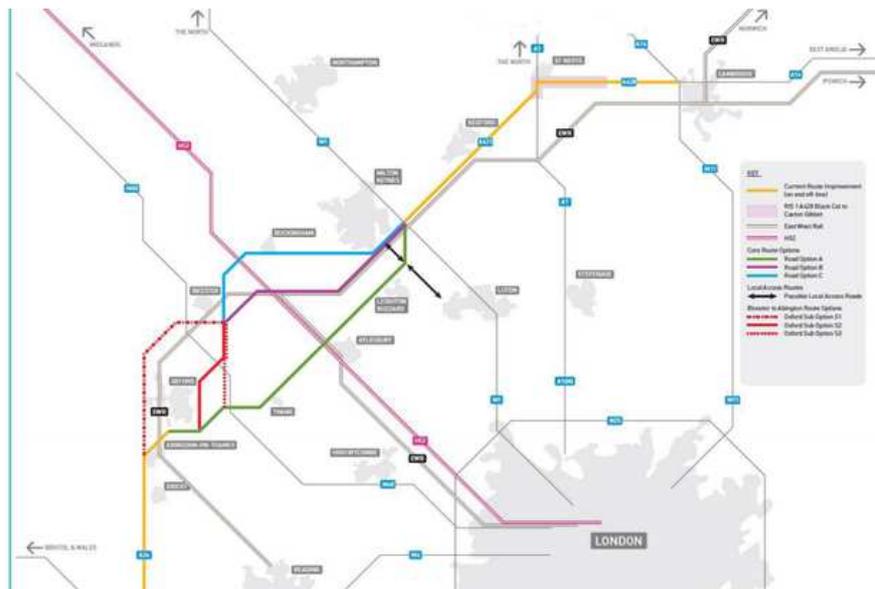
<https://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/>

TVP Milton Keynes @tvp_mk

I am very much looking forward to meeting each and every one of you over the coming months.

Michael Morland

Oxford – Cambridge (via MK) Expressway



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-national-infrastructure-commissions-interim-report-into-the-cambridge-milton-keynes-oxford-corridor>

To succeed in the global economy, Britain must build on its strengths. The corridor connecting Cambridge, Milton Keynes and Oxford could be the UK's Silicon Valley – a world renowned centre for science, technology and innovation. But its future success is not guaranteed.

The Commission's central finding is that a lack of sufficient and suitable housing presents a fundamental risk to the success of the area. Without a joined-up plan for housing, jobs and infrastructure across the corridor, it will be left behind by its international competitors. By providing the foundations for such a strategy, new east-west transport links present a once-in-a-generation opportunity to secure the area's future success.

A LACK OF HOUSING AND CONNECTIVITY ARE PUTTING FUTURE SUCCESS AT RISK

The Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford corridor faces a chronic undersupply of homes made worse by poor east-west transport connectivity. Two of the least affordable cities in the UK lie within the corridor, and the area as a whole has consistently failed to build the number of homes it needs.

That shortage puts sustained growth at risk. It is already increasing costs for businesses and diminishing their ability to attract employees at all levels – including the recruitment and retention of globally mobile talent.

A JOINED-UP STRATEGY LINKING INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOMES

Investment in infrastructure, including enhanced east-west transport links, can help to address these challenges, but it must be properly aligned with a strategy for new homes and communities, not developed in isolation. This means local authorities working in partnership, and with national government, to plan places, homes and transport together. Current governance mechanisms are not sufficient to deliver the step-change in strategic leadership and collaboration needed.

A ONCE-IN-A-GENERATION OPPORTUNITY

Planning for East West Rail and the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway should be taken forward urgently. These are once-in-a-generation investments that will deliver substantial national benefits and, if designed properly, can provide the foundations for the corridor's long-term prosperity: unlocking housing sites, improving land supply, and supporting well-connected and sensitively designed new communities, whilst bringing productive towns and cities closer together.

This corridor is a national asset, that competes on the world stage and can fire the British economy – but only with an integrated and ambitious strategy to deliver new homes, connectivity and opportunities can it realise its full potential.

In the second phase of this study, the National Infrastructure Commission will work with local and national government, and other stakeholders, to put this strategy in place.



David Lock hosted National Infrastructure Commission related meeting



Picture shows discussion led by **Alastair Gordon of the National Infrastructure Commission** discussing the Expressway and other related issues on Thursday 20 April at the offices of David Lock Associates. RTPI Members are invited to join us for a discussion which will include a presentation from the National Infrastructure Commission on its recently published Strategic planning and governance in the Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford Corridor: discussion paper

This is an opportunity for Members to input into the RTPI response to the NIC on how local authorities, local enterprise partnerships and central government can work to develop and deliver an integrated strategic plan for infrastructure, housing and jobs for the Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford corridor.

The responses received by the NIC will help inform its final recommendations on the Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford corridor. These will be published in advance of Autumn Budget 2017.

BOW BRICKHILL - OPEN VILLAGE

SATURDAY 17th JUNE, 1.30-6.00 P.M.

Come and spend an afternoon in this lovely village

- Church Tower open - wonderful views across MK and beyond
- Eight beautiful gardens open, large and small
- Marvel at the self-build plane
- See the model display
- Learn about honey making and buy a delicious jar
- Scrumptious teas and ice-creams on sale
- Children's play areas and activities

Entrance programmes £5, available from The Pavilion, Rushmere Close, Bow Brickhill and other points. Children under 16 free. All proceeds towards re-build of Church/Community Hall. (Free parking at the Pavilion.)

*David Hopkins / Victoria Hopkins / Alice Jenkins –
Danesborough & Walton Ward Councillors*